

03/29/04 - Superfund
***Redevelopment of the Dupage County Landfill Site
Warrenville, Illinois***

In the Blackwell Forest Preserve in Dupage County, Illinois, a 150-foot hill stands as the central component of a restored recreational area and a testament to the positive impact that collaboration can have at a Superfund site. The hill, now known as Mt. Hoy, previously functioned as the Dupage County Landfill and, prior to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) involvement, leached dangerous contaminants into area ground water. Today, Mt. Hoy serves as a recreational destination for nearby residents, who hike the hill for a wonderful birdwatching vantage point or sled down it in the wintry months. Thanks to effective collaboration between U.S. EPA, Illinois EPA (IEPA), and the Dupage County Forest Preserve District (FPD), a once dangerous area is now a community treasure, where visitors picnic, hike, camp, and take boat rides on the lake.



Prior to remediation, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) leaking from the landfill compromised the safety of local ground water. Due to the extent of the contamination, the site was listed as a Superfund site in 1990. U.S. EPA met with FPD and IEPA, and consequently, FPD agreed to conduct further study of the contamination and conduct EPA-approved remedial actions at the site. These activities consisted of the placement of a two foot cap over the landfill, installation of gas vents, and monitored natural attenuation of ground water. The remedy has effectively protected human health and the environment, and the site is now used for a variety of recreational activities.

Today, Mt. Hoy is a Dupage County landmark and one of numerous recreational amenities enjoyed by visitors to the Blackwell Forest Preserve. Thanks to the effective collaboration of U.S. EPA, IEPA, and FPD, the Forest Preserve serves as a source of community pride and a wonderful outdoors diversion for residents and tourists from all over the U.S. A site that once posed a health risk now provides children and adults alike with a healthy recreational opportunity.

Positive Economic and Fiscal Impacts

- Two on-site jobs in the Mt. Hoy area of the Blackwell Forest Preserve
- Approximately \$33,000 in income from on-site jobs in 2003
- Almost \$82,000,000 in increased property values within a half mile of the site from 1991 to 2002
- Over \$1,800,000 in increased property tax revenue for Dupage County in 2002

Environmental and Social Benefits

- Protected human health and the environment by addressing contaminated ground water
- Provided the community with new recreational opportunities
- Improved the aesthetics of the Blackwell Forest Preserve by capping the landfill